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seems unsound. He appears not well acquainted with those varieties of American religion and philosophy, particularly outside of New England, which have not found expression in literature. But it is impossible not to admire his intelligence, his candor, his unconventional courage and pungency of expression. The recent course of American literature he leaves in large part unexplained. May we not say that the New England literature, which he rightly declares to be now substantially a closed body, flowed from a society which from 1820 to 1860 was practically a homogeneous nation; and that, until the American nation as a whole attains to something of the same homogeneous quality, we are not to expect an American literature which shall bear the same relation to it that the classical New England writings bore to the population from which they sprang? We must settle ourselves upon the lees of time. Walt Whitman is not the Messiah of the new dispensation, but rather a clamorous John Baptist, minus the humility, wearing with ostentation his raiment of camel's-hair, and eating his locusts and wild honey with theatrical gusto.

All things considered, no single volume of its size affords so good a history of the United States as this. It will not prove enormously popular; it has too little chauvinism, takes too largely the foreigner's or the Martian's point of view, to make that likely. Yet as it can be bought separately, and as there is a genuine need for a solid history of the United States of about this size, it should have a relatively large success with the public, as well as a cordial appreciation from scholars.

J. FRANKLIN JAMESON.

A History of the Mississippi Valley from its Discovery to the End of Foreign Domination. By JOHN R. SPEARS, in collaboration with A. H. CLARK. (New York: A. S. Clark. 1903. Pp. xxi, 416.)

A book of 140,000 words, abundantly illustrated, at first sight mechanically attractive, and bearing the name of a well-known writer, readily commands attention, the presumption being that where such effort has been made, the result should in some measure be commensurate. In the present case, we regret to say that disillusionment follows examination. It is difficult to say what were the respective parts taken by the two authors. In the preface and not infrequently in the text, the first person singular is used. Possibly the less-practised associate may have done the research work, leaving the narrative to Mr. Spears. From either point of view, however, the undertaking is on the whole painfully crude.

Never scholarly, the literary style is frequently either awkward or undignified. The subheadings to the chapters suggest the friendly assistance of the telegraph editor. There is a marked tendency to the use of extreme and somewhat sensational epithets and phrases, with the purpose, no doubt, of enlivening the text. For example — we have space for but one or two citations — we are told (p. 141) that the “forged statement”

of the French at the Fort Necessity surrender "was [by them] published and screamed throughout all Europe"; on page 139 it had already been affirmed that their version of Jumonville's death "had been screamed into all the courts of Europe." On page 93 we are assured that "It would have afflicted an Indian with syncope had he moved swiftly enough to get ahead of the whites in breaking treaties." In essaying to give us a picture of aboriginal life in the valley, it is alleged (p. 93) that the savages burned and tortured captives "on the theory that 'hanging was too good' for certain offences" — neglecting to explain that hanging as a punishment was unknown among our Indians.

The French are attacked with a persistent bitterness which at last becomes amusing. They are accused (p. 139) in the wars with the English colonists of "slaughtering women and babies whom they dragged from their beds at night"; and a chapter subhead informs us that England's succeeding France in the valley meant that "The man with an axe supplants the vagabond with a sword." It is needless to point out that such an unjudicial temper is not becoming to an historian.

It might be possible to excuse crudity of style, sensationalism, overstatement, inadequacy of treatment, and even an uncritical temperament, were one assured that the volume contained fresh information. But such we have vainly sought within these covers. With insufficient advance knowledge of the field, the authors appear to have hurriedly "crammed" for their task, chiefly from the *Jesuit Relations*, Parkman, and Roosevelt, with a superficial glance at some other authorities. With all of these their acquaintance is evidently slight, for in citations they not infrequently misspell or otherwise mistake names, *e. g.*, "the Rev. Mr. Parkman" (p. 142), and "Dodridge" for Doddridge (p. 232 *et seq.*). Lack of knowledge of recent monographic treatment leads them into accepting as verities such apocrypha as the Jeffersonized version of Chief Logan's speech (p. 222), and the pretty tale of George Rogers Clark's penetrating alone to the Kaskaskia ball-room (pp. 270, 271). Boone and Robertson are classed as "Yankee pioneers" (p. 6). In Chapter V., devoted to the Indians, there is a failure to distinguish between the tribesmen of the plains and those dwelling to the east of the Mississippi, thereby leading to the same confusion in the mind of the reader as possibly existed in that of the writer.

The volume exhibits the lack of practised editorial treatment. The punctuation is curiously faulty. The proof-reader nods when he allows proper names to appear under several guises, *e. g.*, St. Josephs River being sometimes given as St. Joseph's, and elsewhere as St. Joseph; and the Shawnees occasionally appear as Shawanees (although neither version is given in the index). The antipathy of the authors to the French is possibly the cause of the entire omission of French accents in proper names. In compelling all chapters to commence on the right-hand page, the left-hand page is sometimes blank — an uncouth arrangement. There are no running heads for the several chapters. No foot-notes are given, the authors working all credits into the text — an awkward method,

which enables only the surname to be given, thus giving slight intimation of the literature of the subject, in the case of little-known authorities. The illustrations are numerous, and some of them excellent, particularly the head-cuts to chapters; but the full-page pictures are often merely fanciful, while the presence of some of the well-executed portraits can be justified only by chance allusions in the text.

Mechanically, the index presents a good appearance; but a slight examination reveals serious errors both of omission and commission, and in general all the crudities characteristic of the volume. We can here mention but a few examples: Green Bay is credited to Michigan, and is given but two citations; but we find it mentioned in at least a half-dozen other places in the text. Hennepin is awarded but one citation; we have found him, nevertheless, on at least two other pages. The same is the case with Langlade and many other characters in the story. For a long account in the text, there is given but the first page in the stretch; and a familiar method is merely to cite the chapter in which a statement occurs. Many names and events mentioned in the text are here ignored. This is a lazy man's index-making, and closely approaches the methods sometimes met with in our federal documents.

In the absence of any other one book upon the market which covers this broad field in such detail as the Spears-Clark history, it will temporarily meet a certain need; but so crude a piece of work cannot become a standard.

R. G. THWAITES.

The Bernards of Abington and Nether Winchendon. A Family History. By MRS. NAPIER HIGGINS. (New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1903. Two vols., pp. x, 348; viii, 364.)

THE last scion of the last known branch of these Bernards has felt called upon to publish this record of the family. Owing to the destruction and loss of documents, Mrs. Higgins has found the writing of the history laborious, but notwithstanding this she has succeeded by diligent industry, with the aid of various publications available for laborers in this field, in compiling two volumes on her chosen topic, and promises those who are interested in her work to follow these with two others for which the materials at her command are more ample. To the general reader, the story of the career of the Bernards, whether conjectural or supported by authentic records, is of little interest. What concerns us is that Sir Francis Bernard, the whilom governor of the province of Massachusetts Bay, traced his descent from one of the lines of this family, and that after the reader reaches the middle of the first volume he is practically dealing with a life of the governor.

Bernard came to America in 1758, bringing with him his wife and four of his eight children. For two uneventful years he governed the province of New Jersey, during which time his family was increased by two American-born children. He showed some tact during this period in his dealings with the natives, and considerable judgment in his treat-